Serial No. 09/664,460
Art Unit No. 2684

REMARKS

Claims 1-11, 18-20, 22 and 23 are pending in the patent application. By this amendment, Applicants add Claim 24. The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-3, 6, 8-10, 22, and 23 under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by the Hashimoto patent; has rejected Claims 4, 5, 7, and 11 under 35 USC 103 as unpatentable over Hashimoto in view of Antonello; and, has rejected Claims 18-20 under 35 USC 103 as unpatentable over the teachings of Hashimoto in view of Chambers. For the reasons set forth below, Applicants respectfully assert that all of the pending claims are patentable over the cited prior art.

The Hashimoto patent is directed to a system wherein a call along a PSTN can be directed to one cordless station or a group of cordless stations. The Hashimoto system includes a controller at a PBX which is connected to the PSTN, a plurality of radio control units at the PBX, a plurality of access units remotely located and one cordless unit associated with each access unit. In operation, the Hashimoto controller receives a call which is either a call to a single cordless station or a group call to all of the

cordless stations. Hashimoto expressly teaches that signals passed between the controller and the access units and between the access units and the cordless stations contain a field indicating the type of call and a data field with a called station address number and/or a group address number (see: Col. 3, lines 45-48). In addition, Hashimoto teaches that "in response to an individual call, only one uniquely addressed cordless station is alerted" (see: Col. 3, lines 20-22). From a reading of Hashimoto, it is clear that a call to a single cordless station can only be connected to the one single cordless station and that a group call is sent to all cordless stations.

Applicants respectfully assert that the Hashimoto patent does not teach or suggest the invention as claimed. As is expressly taught and claimed by the present application, the invention includes means for dynamically associating a single called telephone number with at least two wireless devices; means for alerting the at least two wireless devices associated with the single called telephone number of a first incoming call from an originating device which is not one of the at least two wireless devices associated with the single called telephone number; means

for accepting one of said wireless devices as the answerer of said first incoming call to conduct the first incoming call with said wireless device; and means for transmitting a second incoming call, directed to the same single called telephone number, to one of the other wireless devices associated with that telephone number whilst the first call is in progress. In operation, the present invention dynamically associates a single called telephone number with more than one wireless device, and then, after accepting one wireless device as the answerer of a first call, dynamically associating a second telephone call to the same number with a different wireless device.

Applicants respectfully assert that the Hashimoto patent does not anticipate the invention as claimed. Applicants first contend that the Hashimoto patent does not teach one or more controllable interconnections between the telephone wirelines and the wireless signal generators. While Hashimoto shows the PBX, there is nothing in the description which teaches or suggests that there are controllable interconnections between the two types of entities. In addition, the Hashimoto system does not include means for dynamically associating a single called

telephone number with at least two wireless devices. Rather, as demonstrated by the citations from Hashimoto above, the Hashimoto determines that a call is to a group address and routes it to all access units and their associated cordless stations; or, determines that a call is an individual call and alerts only one uniquely addressed cordless station (Col. 3, lines 17-22). Accordingly, Hashimoto is using the station address number or group address number (see: Col. 3, lines 45-48) as telephone numbers which indicate the intended call destination. Clearly, Hashimoto is not dynamically associating a call to a single telephone number to more than one wireless device.

Furthermore, Hashimoto does not provide means for alerting the at least two wireless devices associated with the single called telephone number of a first incoming call from an originating device which is not one of the at least two wireless devices associated with the single called telephone number. Since Hashimoto does not dynamically associate wireless devices with a call to a single telephone number, it cannot be maintained that Hashimoto alerts those devices which have been dynamically associated with the call.

Since Hashimoto expressly teaches that each cordless station has a called station address number (Col. 3, line 47), then Hashimoto does not have means for accepting one of more than one wireless devices as the answerer of a first incoming call, which has been dynamically associated with that call, in order to conduct the first incoming call with said wireless device.

Finally, Hashimoto does not provide any teachings which anticipate the claimed means for transmitting a second incoming call, directed to the same single called telephone number, to one of the other wireless devices associated with that telephone number whilst the first call is in progress. Hashimoto only directs calls to more than one cordless station if the call is a group call. It does not dynamically associated calls to wireless devices and does not teach or suggest that an individual call can be routed to more than one cordless station.

For a patent to anticipate claim language under 35 USC 102(b), that patent must teach each and every claim feature. Since the Hashimoto patent does not teach one or more controllable interconnections between the telephone wirelines and the wireless signal generators; does not teach

means for dynamically associating a single called telephone number with at least two wireless devices; does not teach means for alerting the at least two wireless devices associated with the single called telephone number of a first incoming call from an originating device which is not one of the at least two wireless devices associated with the single called telephone number; does not teach means for accepting one of said wireless devices as the answerer of said first incoming call to conduct the first incoming call with said wireless device; and does not teach means for transmitting a second incoming call, directed to the same single called telephone number, to one of the other wireless devices associated with that telephone number whilst the first call is in progress, it cannot be maintained that Hashimoto anticipates the invention as claimed.

The Examiner has additionally cited the Antonello and Chambers patents in rejecting claims. The Antonello patent discloses a system and method for transmitting metering pulses with rate information to a wireless public call office (PCO). A local exchange is wired to a wireless local loop which transmits wireless signals to subscribers' remote wireless devices, including PCOs and public pay phones.

Each subscriber has a dedicated wireline at the local exchange (see: Col. 4, lines 5-6). The local exchange determines the rate (i.e., cost per unit time) for a call and sends it on the dedicated landline (Col. 4, lines 19-21) to the wireless local loop, which transmits it over the forward voice channel to the wireless device (see: Col. 4, lines 38-44). The local exchange will further provide rate and metering change information to the wireless local loop when the rates change. It has been previously established that the Antonello patent provides no teachings regarding the claim features of means for dynamically associating a single called telephone number with at least two wireless devices; means for alerting the at least two wireless devices associated with the called telephone number of a first incoming call; means for accepting one of said wireless devices as the answerer of said first incoming call to conduct the first incoming call with said wireless device; and means for transmitting a second incoming call, directed to the called telephone number, to one of the other wireless devices associated with that telephone number whilst the first call is in progress, which are expressly recited in all of the pending claims.

The Examiner is citing the Antonello patent for teachings the use of memory in the network control unit to include long term storage of information. Applicants respectfully assert that the inclusion of memory in the Hashimoto controller would not be enough to render obvious the present claims. Neither Hashimoto nor Antonello teaches or suggests that multiple incoming calls to a subscriber number be directed to different wireless devices dynamically associated with the one subscriber number. In fact, Antonello has each subscriber number dedicated to a particular wireline and Antonello has the wireless local loop transmit radio signals which the subscribers use to determine if the signal information is for them (see: Col. 4, lines 1-2). Applicants believe that even if one were to seek to modify Hashimoto with Antonello, one would not arrive at the subject invention since Hashimoto does not teach the claim features and Antonello teaches away from the claim features.

Under U. S. Patent Law, obviousness can only be established based on some teaching or suggestion in the body of art existing at the time of the invention. Since neither Hashimoto nor the Antonello patent teaches or suggests the

network node device as now claimed, including means for associating a called telephone number with at least two wireless devices, means for alerting the at least two wireless devices associated with the single called telephone number of a first incoming call from an originating device other than the at least two wireless devices associated with the called telephone number, means for accepting one of said wireless devices as the answerer of said first incoming call to conduct the first incoming call with said wireless device, and means for transmitting a second incoming call, directed to the same single called telephone number, to one of the other wireless devices associated with that same single telephone number whilst the first call is in progress, it cannot be maintained that the combination obviates the invention as claimed. Accordingly, Applicants request withdrawal of the rejections based on a combination of teachings from Hashimoto and Antonello.

With respect to claims 18-20, Applicants refer to the arguments presented above with respect to the teachings of the Hashimoto patent. Applicants further note that the Chambers patent does not provide those teachings which are missing from Hashimoto. The Chambers patent discloses a

system for connecting telecommunications lines to telephones, handsets, computers and other end user interfaces or consumer electronics devices in a residence or business. Chambers does not, however, teach or suggest the invention as set forth in Claim 1, and in Claims 18-20 which depend directly therefrom. The Chambers patent does not provide a network node device comprising one or more connections to one or more telephone wirelines for receiving incoming calls each specifying a telephone number; one or more wireless signal generators supporting one or more direct wireless connections to one or more wireless devices; one or more controllable interconnections between the telephone wirelines and the wireless signal generators; means for associating a single called telephone number with at least two wireless devices; means for alerting the at least two wireless devices associated with the single called telephone number of a first incoming call from an originating device which is not one of the at least two wireless devices; means for accepting one of said wireless devices as the answerer of said first incoming call to conduct the first incoming call with said wireless device; and means for transmitting a second incoming call, directed

to the same single called telephone number, to one of the other wireless devices associated with that same single telephone number whilst the first call is in progress, as is now recited in Claim 1, and in Claims 18-20 which include all of the limitations of Claim 1. While the Chambers patent may provide power supply teachings, that alone is not sufficient to obviate the claims which include all of the limitations of Claim 1.

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments, withdrawal of the rejections, and allowance of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,
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